Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 1/10/64

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 [redacted]

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
(KENNEDY ASSASSINATION POSTER)
Warren Commission

The Cleveland Office has forwarded to the Bureau a copy of the attached poster captioned "World Freedom, The Real Target" which clearly depicts and associates Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of President Kennedy, with Marxism. This poster was prepared and copyrighted by [redacted] Lakewood, Ohio, who volunteered to make additional copies available to our Cleveland Office at a discount printing price of $4 per 100.

In furnishing the poster to the Cleveland Office on 12/24/63 for possible referral to the Director, [redacted] stated he had read and reread "Masters of Deceit." He commented in regard to the Director, "It is great that in our modern governmental and political world of the U.S.A....there is one patriotic solid rock of a man on whom we can depend, and who we can believe, namely J.E.H. For this, all patriotic U.S. citizens are thankful."

We believe this poster, if placed in the hands of the communists and their sympathizers, would have a tremendous disrupting and disillusioning effect on their ideology. At the very least, it would cause them to have second thoughts regarding their alien philosophy.

The poster quotes Oswald as stating "I am a Marxist!" in a United Press International (UPI) interview in Moscow in 1959. Oswald did make this statement to a reporter and to the United States Embassy in Moscow in 1959, but we have been unable to establish that such a statement was made by him during a UPI interview. This does not detract from the punch of the poster, however, because it is public knowledge that Oswald made the statement.

ENCLOSURE

Because the poster is a factual graphic illustration of public information and because its distribution under the Counter-intelligence Program will not be traceable to the Government, it should in no manner affect the deliberations of the Warren Commission

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presently considering the facts surrounding the assassination. The poster has already received some public circulation through the efforts of the individual responsible for its preparation.

We propose the Cleveland Office purchase 500 copies of the poster at a cost of $20 providing the posters may be obtained without associating the Bureau with the purchase. In the event the posters are available, in accordance with the request of the Cleveland Office we would like to distribute 50 to Communist Party (CP) members in the Cleveland area through an anonymous mailing.

We will carefully follow the anonymous mailing of the poster in Cleveland to analyze its effectiveness and to determine means and situations by which it may be circulated as an effective counterintelligence operation in other areas in the future. In this regard the CP may be expected to sponsor "Kennedy Memorial" meetings in the future as a vehicle to propagate the communist line and to raise funds for the Party. On 1/12/64 such a communist-sponsored meeting is scheduled to be held in Hamtramck, Michigan, under the title "John F. Kennedy Memorial Tribute Committee" meeting. Although it is too late to take action in regard to this meeting, we will be alert to consider the possibility to arrange for the distribution of the poster at the site of future similar communist-sponsored meetings.

The remaining 450 copies of the poster will be maintained in the Cleveland Office until such time as a situation arises where they may be distributed in other areas of the country in connection with the Counterintelligence Program. No additional circulation of the poster will be made without specific authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That the attached letter be sent to Cleveland authorizing the purchase of 500 copies of the poster captioned "World Freedom, The Real Target" providing such purchase will not be associated with the FBI.

(2) That Cleveland be authorized in the attached letter to anonymously mail up to 50 copies of the poster to CP members locally.

SEE ADDENDUM Page 3.

O.K. J W

see page 3

MEMO TO: MR. SULLIVAN
RE: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM

ADDENDUM (AHB:hmm) 1/13/64: I have not approved because I believe it is undesirable to use the Oswald case for counterintelligence purposes while it is under consideration by the Presidential Commission.